



MONTANA SECRETARY OF STATE

Linda McCulloch
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EXHIBIT #2
DATE 3-10-11
RE SB 55

SB 55 Implement MOVE Act
House Administration, RM 455
March 10, 2011 @ 8 AM
Secretary Linda McCulloch's Testimony

- Good morning Madam Chair, members of the committee. For the record, I'm Linda McCulloch, Montana Secretary of State.
- I strongly support Senate Bill 55, which implements the Federal Military and Overseas Voter Empowerment Act (MOVE Act).
- Thank you to Senator Larry Jent for sponsoring this legislation, and for joining our commitment to ensure Montana's military service members and overseas citizens, who are also known as UOCAVA voters, have equal opportunity to participate in the election process.
- The fairness and integrity of every election is of upmost importance. Increasing voter turnout for our service members, their families and other overseas citizens should be a priority for all of us.
- Montana's 56 county Election Administrators have had a long and noteworthy track record of providing services that allow our military and overseas citizen voters to request, receive and send election materials electronically.
 - This includes the ability to register to vote and to request an absentee ballot (using the Federal Post Card Application (FPCA). Also, the ability to vote and return a ballot electronically.
- As Senator Jent mentioned, recent changes to Montana law (SB 367 in 2009) and the federal MOVE Act have allowed us to provide UOCAVA voters more seamless access to their ballot - no matter where they are living.
- Senate Bill 55 simply clarifies in law some of our existing practices, while uniformly implementing additional mandates outlined in the MOVE Act.

- I launched the Ballot Marking Wizard for the 2010 November General Election and received positive feedback from many military voters.
 - The Ballot Marking Wizard allows UOCAVA voters to go online and access their precinct-specific ballot without having to request one from the county election office.
 - Some voters admitted it was the first election they had voted in many years, because in past election cycles, they were not able to receive, vote and return their ballot in time.
 - Although some counties, mostly larger counties with IT resources, have offered services electronically to military and overseas citizen voters, the Ballot Marking Wizard ensures that these voters, no matter where they are registered in Montana, have access to the voting process electronically.
- Every eligible voter deserves to have a voice on Election Day. This bill ensures our military men and women, their families, and other overseas citizens can more easily participate in all federal elections.
- I urge you to vote YES for Senate Bill 55. Thank you for your time this morning.